

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Pozo Nuevo Catchment

Project No.

Region/GMU: Region 5 / Unit 36A

HPC:

Project Type: New Water Development

Project Description:

This project is one of several catchments that have been planned for years to restore water to the Buenos Aires NWR. The refuge stopped grazing in the mid-1980s. This improved range conditions considerably, however, the improved grass cover reduced run-off and many of the previously reliable water tanks went dry and most stayed dry. The lack of surface water has been identified by the department for years as a limiting factor for wildlife on the refuge, but the previous refuge administration would not allow water to be restored until the Comprehensive Conservation Plan was complete. That plan is now complete and we can commence the restoration efforts begun 7 years ago.

This project proposes we add a water catchment on the northern part of the refuge, one of the best mule deer areas in the state. The location is such that mule deer, masked bobwhite quail, antelope, javelina and white tailed deer will benefit from this water source. The nearest reliable water source to this location is approximately 4.5 miles in several directions. This is an example of well-planned water source in an area that is being managed properly in all other respects (i.e., great habitat quality).

Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer 75 %, Antelope 25%, and other mammals and birds including Masked Bobwhite Quail.

This catchment will have a direct benefit for mule deer. This catchment will provide a perennial water source for mule deer on this side of the refuge. The only other perennial water source in this area is in whitetail habitat approximately 4.5 miles from this location.

Possible Funding Partners:

**Implementation Schedule: Dependent on Funding and Crew Schedule to complete project.
Approximately 10 days to build this catchment.**

Beginning:

Completed:

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$33,400

Cost Share Funds: \$1,000 Archaeology (Completed by USFWS 8/06)

Total Project Costs: \$34,400

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
Applicant: Gabriel Paz (AZGFD) gpaz@azgfd.gov Telephone: 520-883-0487	Address: AZ Game and Fish Department 555 N. Greasewood Road Tucson, AZ 85745
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: Jim Hefelfinger AZGFD, Mary Hunnicutt (BANWR), Joe Currie AZGFD	Date: 3-1-07
Applicant's signature:	Date:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Game Branch
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
mdisney@azgfd.gov

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

This catchment will be critical for mule deer, antelope, javelina, and whitetail in this area. The area is currently devoid of perennial water and has not been grazed for almost 20 years. The range conditions are good and the refuge operates an aggressive burning program that helps to improve forage conditions. Most fences have been removed from the refuge property. With all other manageable factors taken care of we need to make sure the deer and pronghorn habitat has an adequate distribution of water.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Add a reliable source of water on the North end of the Buenos Aires Refuge. This will complement the last catchment we added in the foothills of the Las Guijas Mountains (approx 4.5 miles away) and the Wilber Canyon Catchment which is approximately 7 miles to the south of the proposed catchment. This should improve the current distribution of deer and antelope and allow them to use more habitat during dry years and dry times of the year. It is one more step in our quest to restore water distribution on the refuge to levels it was when the Buenos Aires Ranch was operating.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge Habitat Management Plan identifies water distribution as a problem on the Refuge and we have coordinated with the Refuge on this project to pick a location that will help make water more accessible for all wildlife in the area.

Although this project will primarily benefit Mule Deer, this project will also provide a reliable water source for Pronghorn Antelope that were transplanted into the area in 2000. Forty-four antelope were released on the Buenos Aires Ranch within 2 miles of this proposed Catchment location. The Antelope immediately left the refuge and small group (12 to 20 Antelope) can be found on the neighboring Marley Ranch (4 miles to the east). We believe that the lack of water may have been a factor for the Pronghorn to leave the Refuge.

We are currently working on a Plan with the State Land Department, NRCS, BANWR, and other partners to improve habitat conditions (Brush and mesquite removal) for Pronghorn as well as increase distribution of water sources within this area.

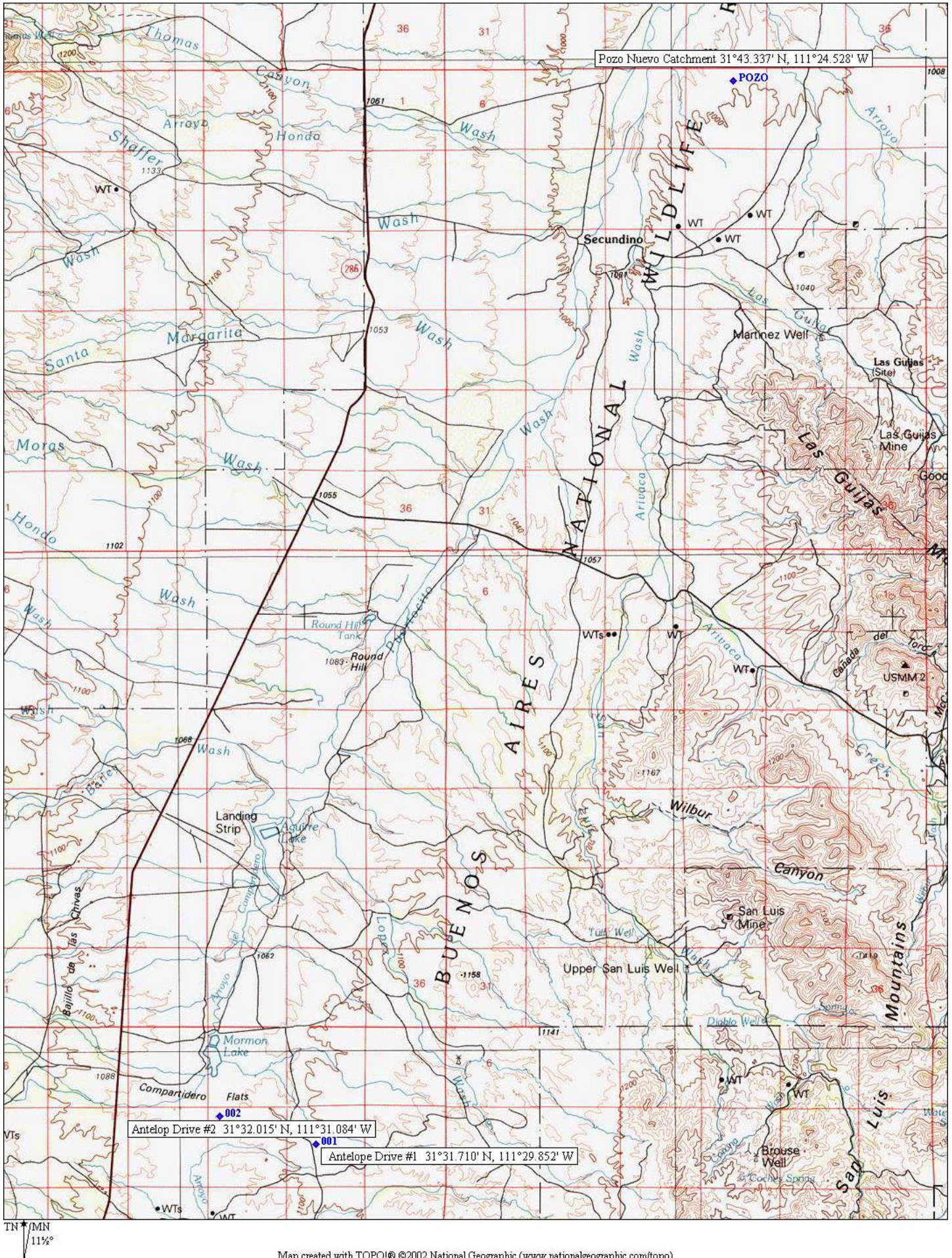
PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Construct a new catchment in the location noted below using components itemized in the budget table.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The site is located at GPS coordinates 31° 43.337' and 111°24.528. Approximate elevation of 3270 feet elevation. Township 20 S, Range 9 E, Section 3, NE ¼, NW ¼.

The Proposed Catchment location is at the top of the map on the next page. There is a road that is located within 200 yards of the proposed location.



LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

This Proposed Catchment location is on USFWS, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

N/A

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The current and proposed location of this catchment is at an elevation of about 3270' in upper Sonoran Desert grassland habitat consisting of various grass species, mesquite, and shrubs.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Materials	Grant Dollars Requested	Cost Share AGFD
24' x 48' Apron including gutter	\$6000	
3' walk-in trough	2,000	
Two 4,500 gallon tanks (\$4,000 each)	8,000	
Fence (150' X150' standard Piperail)*	2,400	
Labor, per diem, equipment costs	15,000	
Archaeology (Completed by USFWS)		\$1000
Total:	\$33,400	

***Although this is a National Wildlife Refuge and cattle are not allowed to graze the refuge, trespass cattle can occasionally be found in this area so we are recommending a fence be placed around this catchment.**

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

This catchment has already been prioritized in the Department's statewide annual work plan to for development.

This proposed catchment location was chosen by Mary Hunnicutt (USFWS), Gabriel Paz (AZGFD) and Joe Currie (AZGFD). The location was specifically chosen to provide perennial water source for wildlife in an area that is has an abundance of wildlife.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

All catchments in Region 5 are monitored at least twice annually by wildlife managers to determine if water hauling is necessary.

Refuge personnel will also monitor this catchment. The Refuge can also assist the department by providing water or hauling water to this catchment.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

This catchment will be the Department's responsibility to maintain. It will be checked a minimum of twice per year.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

The Department's Development Branch would complete the project completion report.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

PROJECT NAME: ANTELOPE DRIVE CATCHMENT

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development? Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Joe Currie (Summer 2006)
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
 2-4 4-6 6-8 8-10 10-12 X 12-14 14-16 >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**
 X YES (please complete #5 below) NO (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source: Las Guijas
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.): Catchment
Ownership of water source: AZ Game and Fish
Distance in miles from project: 4.5 miles
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** X YES NO
There are pronghorn antelope in this area from two separate releases on the refuge. One release was in the 1980's and the second release was in the late 1990's. Currently there are remaining antelope within 4 miles of this area on the ranch to the east of the refuge.
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.**

Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): X 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only foot only**
**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approx. hiking time:

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES X NO

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

10) Was a site visit completed? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

Gabriel Paz and Joe Currie (AZGFD) and Mary Hunnicutt (USFWS)